

HARATA et al  
Appl. No. 10/617,700  
August 1, 2005

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, the claims have been amended to consistently refer to through holes and to amend claims 13 and 15 for clarity. Each independent claim has also been amended to refer to a "first" plurality of holes, since the claims thereafter refer to particulars of that particular plurality of holes and not necessarily all holes defined through the plate.

An early and favorable Action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: 

Michelle N. Lester  
Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:slj  
11th Floor  
901 North Glebe Road  
Arlington, Virginia 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100